

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
 Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of	)	FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
	)	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Preparation for International	)	IC Docket No. 94-31
Telecommunication Union World	)	
Radiocommunication Conferences	)	

COMMENTS OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHORTWAVE BROADCASTERS

The National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters ("NASB"), by its attorneys, hereby submits its comments on the Notice of Inquiry (the "NOI") in the above-referenced proceeding concerning the 1995 International Telecommunications Union ("ITU") World Radiocommunications Conference ("WRC-95").<sup>1/</sup> NASB urges the Commission to assure United States participation on matters related to High Frequency Broadcasting ("HFBC") spectrum utilization, and encourage the completion of arrangements for international coordination of HFBC expansion frequencies no later than the 1997 World Radiocommunications Conference ("WRC-97").

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<sup>1/</sup> Notice of Inquiry, Preparation for International Telecommunication Union World Radiocommunication Conferences, 9 FCC Rcd 2430 (1994); Order, IC Docket No. 94-31, DA 94-566 (June 2, 1994) (extending deadline for filing comments to July 15, 1994).

Statement of Interest

1. NASB is a non-profit corporation, organized to advance the stature of FCC-licensed shortwave broadcasters, to improve business and operating conditions for shortwave broadcasters, and to monitor and recommend national and international legislation, regulations and policies that affect or may affect NASB's members. Eligibility for voting membership in NASB is limited to licensees and permittees in the international broadcast service.

Background

2. NASB maintains that HFBC is a vital part of global international communication, and encourages the early availability of all HFBC spectrum. The role HFBC plays, and will play for the foreseeable future, must be part of the overall consideration of developing technologies. To that end, NASB has been, and continues to be, an active participant on the issues of HFBC allocation and spectrum utilization. NASB's president was a member of the FCC's Industry Advisory Committee ("IAC") in preparation for the 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference ("WARC-92"), and later served as a member of the United States delegation at WARC-92. Other association members participated as members of an Informal Working Group which submitted its recommendations to the FCC's IAC. NASB is currently participating in the United States efforts related to Task

Group 10/5, established by ITU to prepare studies on HFBC spectrum utilization issues for WRC-95 and WRC-97.<sup>2/</sup>

3. At WARC-92, the United States took the position that insufficient frequencies have been allocated to HFBC, and that further work on planning would be unproductive. WARC-92 allocated a substantial (although still inadequate) number of additional frequencies for HFBC, but subject to the planning provisions of future WRC's.<sup>3/</sup>

4. The 1993 World Radiocommunication Conference ("WRC-93") recommended to the ITU Administrative Council a substantive agenda for WRC-95. WRC-93's recommended agenda, adopted intact at the Council's fourteenth Plenary Meeting, mentions consideration of "the availability of the newly allocated HFBC bands" with a view to taking action at the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference.<sup>4/</sup> WRC-97's preliminary agenda anticipates taking such action in light of the results of the studies carried out by the Radiocommunications Section,<sup>5/</sup> among them, the studies of Task Group 10/5.

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<sup>2/</sup> See ITU Circular Letter 10/LCCE/3 (April 1, 1994).

<sup>3/</sup> See NOI, 9 FCC Rcd at 2436 ¶ 34 & n.39.

<sup>4/</sup> See Resolution, R.1065, World Radiocommunication Conference 1995 (WRC-95), ITU Document C94/149-E (May 15, 1994), at 3.c).

<sup>5/</sup> See Preliminary Agenda for the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference, as released at WRC-93, at 3.3, reproduced at NOI, 9 FCC Rcd at 2443-44.

Discussion

5. The NOI requests comment on whether items now listed on the preliminary agenda for WRC-97 will be timely for consideration at that time.<sup>6/</sup> NASB emphatically stresses that HFBC spectrum utilization provisions should be considered at the earliest possible WRC, at the latest, WRC-97. It would be inappropriate to delay their consideration any further.

6. Task Group 10/5 is directed to submit a first report on HFBC spectrum utilization directly to the 1995 Conference Preparatory Meeting, with its final report to be submitted to the 1997 Conference Preparatory Meeting.<sup>7/</sup> Therefore, the issue of spectrum utilization of the HFBC bands will clearly be timely for consideration at WRC-97, and NASB urges the Commission to help the United States effort in resolving all international HFBC spectrum issues, so that all HFBC spectrum will be available on at least a non-interference basis after WRC-97.

7. The NOI also requests comment on the alternatives that can satisfy the broadcasters' requirements for the interim period until WRC resolution of HFBC spectrum issues.<sup>8/</sup> NASB reiterates its strongly held view that

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<sup>6/</sup> NOI, 9 FCC Rcd at 2437 ¶ 40.

<sup>7/</sup> See ITU Circular Letter 10/LCCE/3, at 2 (April 1, 1994).

<sup>8/</sup> NOI, 9 FCC Rcd at 2437 ¶ 37.

there is no alternative to the United States' active participation in the international coordination process.

8. NASB commends the United States' recognition of the High Frequency Coordination Conference, a group comprised of international HF broadcasters attempting to coordinate HF spectrum use.<sup>9/</sup> Such voluntary coordination of the best use of allocated frequencies could provide a valuable framework for Task Group 10/5 and expedited action on HFBC issues at WRC-97. Moreover, the United States should maintain dialogue with private-sector broadcasters and all other HF users to assure efficient use of HF spectrum until the international community finalizes its plan.

9. In addition, as the Commission finds preferable alternative spectrum for incumbent fixed and mobile users of the new HFBC spectrum, it can expedite the migration of the incumbent users as quickly as practicable.

10. Finally, NASB continues to underscore its skepticism regarding single-sideband ("SSB") operation in the HFBC spectrum as a timely solution to coordination problems.<sup>10/</sup> Instead, the Commission should consider that impending technological options such as Digital Audio Broadcasting in HF will soon obviate the need for SSB.

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<sup>9/</sup> Id. at ¶ 36.


<sup>10/</sup> Id. at 2436 n.39.

Conclusion

For the above stated reasons, NASB respectfully urges the Commission to make finding regarding HFBC spectrum in accordance with the above views.

Respectfully submitted,

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
SHORTWAVE BROADCASTERS**

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